

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:
storing a firmware binary file in an extension area of a non-volatile storage device
of a computer system; and
enabling a Basic Input/Output System (BIOS) of the computer system to access
the stored firmware binary file.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein storing the firmware binary file includes invoking
a firmware interface via an installation toolkit.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein storing the firmware binary file further includes
the firmware interface invoking a hardware interface to write the firmware binary file in
the extension area.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein storing the firmware binary file includes invoking
a hardware interface via an installation toolkit.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the firmware binary file is a firmware application
binary.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the firmware binary file is an operating system
application binary.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the computer system operates in accordance with
the Extensible Firmware Interface (EFI) framework specification.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein enabling the BIOS of the computer system comprises using a Driver Execution Environment (DXE) dispatcher to trigger the BIOS to access the stored firmware binary file.
9. The method of claim 6, wherein the BIOS is stored in a main area of the non-volatile storage device.
10. The method of claim 6, further comprising performing preparatory tasks.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein performing preparatory tasks includes checking a digital signature of the firmware binary file.
12. The method of claim 10, wherein performing preparatory tasks includes checking the firmware binary file for data integrity.
13. A computer system, comprising:
 - a processor; and
 - a first memory device operatively coupled to the processor on which a Basic Input/Output System (BIOS) is stored;
 - a second memory device operatively coupled to the processor on which instructions are stored which when executed by the processor perform operations comprising:
 - storing a firmware application binary file of a firmware application installation toolkit in an extension area of the first memory device;
 - and

enabling the Basic Input/Output System (BIOS) of the computer system to
access the stored firmware application binary file.

14. The computer system of claim 13, wherein the first memory device includes instructions for operating the computer system in accordance with the Extensible Firmware Interface (EFI) framework specification.

15. The computer system of claim 13, wherein the first memory device further comprises:

a main area to store the BIOS; and

an extension area to store the firmware application binary file.

16. The computer system of claim 15, wherein the first flash memory device further comprises:

a shared area to provide communication between the main area and extension area.

17. The computer system of claim 15, wherein the first and second memory devices are the same device.

18. An article of manufacture, comprising:

a machine-readable medium on which a plurality of instructions are stored, which

when executed perform operations comprising:

storing a firmware binary file in an extension area of a non-volatile storage device of a computer system; and

enabling a Basic Input/Output System (BIOS) of the computer system to
access the stored firmware binary file.

19. The article of manufacture of claim 18, wherein storing the firmware binary includes invoking a firmware interface.
20. The article of manufacture of claim 19, wherein storing the firmware binary further includes the firmware interface invoking a hardware interface to write a binary file in the extension area.
21. The article of manufacture of claim 18, wherein the firmware binary file is a firmware application binary.
22. The article of manufacture of claim 18, wherein the firmware binary file is an operating system application binary.
23. The article of manufacture of claim 18, wherein the computer system operates in accordance with the Extensible Firmware Interface (EFI) framework specification.
24. A firmware storage apparatus, comprising:
a main area to store Basic Input/Output System (BIOS) program code; and
an extension area to store complimentary BIOS program code.
25. The firmware storage apparatus of claim 24, further comprising:
a shared area to store data accessible by both the main area and the extension area.

26. The firmware storage apparatus of claim 24, wherein the complimentary BIOS program code of the extension area comprises data provisioning code.

27. The firmware storage apparatus of claim 24, wherein the complimentary BIOS program code of the extension area comprises anti-theft code.

28. The firmware storage apparatus of claim 24, wherein the complimentary BIOS program code of the extension area comprises anti-virus code.

29. The firmware storage apparatus of claim 24, wherein the complimentary BIOS program code of the extension area comprises asset management code.